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GANG GUILTY OF SEX ABUSE

David Millward

THE eight-week-long trial of a gang accused of sexually exploiting young girls in Banbury has ended with the conviction of five men and one youth.

A social worker who supported the young girls during the investigation spoke of the tears of relief shed after the verdicts, which were reached on Thursday and Friday of last week.

The Oxfordshire County Council social worker, who asked not to be named, said: "There were lots of tears for me and my colleagues and a sense of relief for the girls – just a massive mix of emotions."

The jury at Oxford Crown Court had heard how the men identified their targets by organising parties, called Fiddy Events, for under-18s between 2009 and 2013.

Prosecution barrister Stuart Trimmer described how the group from Banbury subjected their victims to a cycle of abuse, which in some cases culminated in rape.

Ahmed Hassan-Sule, 21, of Gyndebourne Gardens, Highlands, described as the leader of the group, was found guilty of 13 counts of sexual activity with a child and one count of assault by penetration.

Mohamed Saleh, 22, of Orchard Way, Northrop, was convicted of two counts of sexual activity with a child and cleared of a further count of sexual activity with a child and cleared of one count of rape.

Said Saleh, 20, also of Orchard Way, was found guilty of one count of sexual activity with a child and acquitted of one count of the same offence.

Kagiso Manase, 25, of Warwick Road, was convicted of two counts of sexual activity with a child, two counts of causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity and one count of sexual assault.

Takudzwa Hova, 21, of Broughton Road, was convicted of one count of rape, one count of sexual activity with a child and two counts of causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity.

A 17-year-old boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was found



Head of CID Andy Murray pictured outside the police headquarters in Kidlington

guilty of one count of rape.

Alexandru Nae, 19, of Broome Way, was cleared of one count of sexual activity and one count of rape.

During the case a barrister told the jury: "As a result of Operation Bullfinch the Kingfisher Team, a team of social workers and police officers, was set up to deal with the problem of child sexual exploitation in this area."

"They need results, the Kingfisher Team, and the defendants are the guinea pigs."

Thames Valley Police's Detective Chief Superintendent Andrew Murray said: "I am very happy to take the criticism that we are trying too hard and putting too much emphasis into it. That is music to my ears."

"I don't think there would be a member of the public who would disagree that we should relentlessly pursue people suspected of child abuse."

"There are proper safeguards in place in court and we go to extraordinary lengths to ensure

proper evidence is presented and people get a fair trial.

"But I make no apology for continuing to increase the numbers that we put before the courts."

The five men are due to appear at Oxford Crown Court on April 17 for sentencing.

The 17-year-old will be sentenced at Oxford Crown Court on March 27.

● MP comments on
case: Page 2



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Use of 'slags' tag in court upsets MP

Baldry tells Lord Chancellor it was inappropriate for a barrister to use the term to describe grooming victims

Pete Hughes
phughes@nqo.com

VICTIMS of child abuse should not be called "slags", Sir Tony Baldry has said in a letter.

The Banbury MP wrote to the Lord Chancellor after the term was used by barristers in a case against five men and a boy from Banbury.

In an open letter to Chris Gray-

ling, Sir Tony suggested defence barristers in last week's grooming gang trial "besmirched" the six children who were abused.

During the trial, Michael Magarian QC, defence barrister for Ahmed Hassan-Sule, suggested the motivation for the girls coming forward could be because "it's better to be a victim than a slag, excuse my language".

He added: "Once you are a victim who has been groomed you no longer have to take any responsibility for anything that you did."

In the letter published online on Monday Sir Tony wrote: "As a member of the Bar myself I know that defence counsel have a duty to put their client's case to the court.

"However, I cannot envisage any circumstances in which it is appropriate for members of the English Bar to describe victims of child abuse as 'slags'."

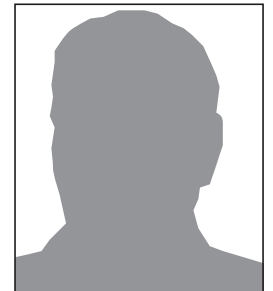
Hassan-Sule, 21, of Gyndebourne Gardens, Highlands, Mohamed Saleh, 22, of Orchard Way, Northrop, Said Saleh, 20, also of Orchard Way, Kagiso Manase, 25, of Warwick Road, Takudzwa Hova, 21, of Broughton Road, and a 17-year-old boy who cannot be named for legal reasons were found guilty at Oxford Crown Court on Friday.

The five men will appear at Oxford Crown Court on April 17 for sentencing. The 17-year-old will be sentenced on March 27.

Read the letter at tonybaldry.co.uk



Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry, who is a member of the Bar, wrote to the Lord Chancellor complaining about language used to describe one of the victims in a court case



From left, Ahmed Hassan-Sule, Kagiso Manase, Mohamed Saleh, Said Saleh, Takudzwa Hova and a youth who cannot be identified for legal reasons

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Mysterious French maid painting appears on shop wall



The mysterious "Banksy-style" mural featuring a French maid, which has appeared on a side wall of a shop

A MYSTERIOUS "Banksy-style" painting has appeared on an Oxfordshire shop wall.

The image was first spotted on the side of the empty building, causing a stir among passers-by.

Manager of nearby pub, the Banbury Cross, Tom Farmer, said he had seen the mural being spray-painted on to the wall at 9am on Saturday.

The 27-year-old said: "I don't think it's a Banksy because he does it nighttime."

"I presume it's the person who

owns the building, which is about to turn into a cocktail and wine bar, with flats upstairs.

"He was just in a tracksuit, with a white spray mask on. I think it looks nice."

No painter or commissioner has yet identified themselves as responsible for the artwork in Butchers Row, behind Banbury High Street, but it is understood to have been organised by the building's owners.

The "French Maid" mural is based on a real Banksy painting

in Chalk Farm, London.

It is now largely obliterated, as someone painted over most of it in 2008, following a fire in Camden Market.

Banksy was one of 150 artists to have their work shown at Oxford's second international art fair this February.

The Bristol street artist's "Di Faced Tenner", fake £10 notes bearing the face of the late Princess Diana instead of the Queen and headed "Banksy of England", were displayed.

Old iron works buildings look set for demolition

Relics from 1800s likely to be bulldozed to make way for industrial starter units

HISTORIC 1800s buildings that made up the former Cherwell Iron Works could be demolished.

Banbury company Swan Foundry has submitted a planning application to bulldoze the buildings in Canal Street and replace them with six industrial "starter units".

The red brick structures are on the Local List for historical interest and since 2013 have been included within the council's Oxford Canal Conservation Area.

The current application states: "The proposed building will be clad externally in red brick" and "will have a natural slate roof finish".

But Rob Kinchin-Smith, chairman of the Banbury Civic Society, said the proposed buildings were "dressed up as Victorian look-alikes".

He said: "What was produced there, and what the buildings stand for in terms of Banbury's history, is heavily significant.

"None of the buildings on Canal-side are fabulous pieces of architecture. But if this is converted it sends out the message that all you need to do is neglect a building



Banbury Civic Society chairman Rob Kinchin-Smith in front of some of the old Cherwell Iron Works buildings

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

in the conservation area for long enough and you can then demolish it. We cannot afford that precedent."

The buildings form part of an industrial heartland that once stretched from Morrisons to Bridge Street. They were built in 1862 by local engineer and mill-

wright Joseph Kirby and Tipton coal-master Thomas Barrows. The firm operated as Kirby & Barrows, Barrows & Carmichael, Barrows & Stewart and Barrows & Co., finally ceasing trading in 1919.

With around 100 employees, the site was one of Banbury's three largest employers and had a highly varied catalogue. From 1855 it produced portable steam engines, steam ploughing machin-

ery, threshing machines, mortar mills and pumping engines for coal mines

Swan Foundry owner Martin Phillips said the firm, which is located next door and has owned the site for 12 months, considered the buildings "not economically viable".

He said: "It is a shed. They are unsafe. Because of the site's layout, drug dealing goes on there."

Sex enquiry dropped

BANBURY: Police say investigation of an alleged sex attack has been dropped.

A woman claimed she was sexually assaulted in the Bankside area of Banbury on February 1.

She told police a man attacked her, pulled her to the ground and tried to remove her clothing while she was walking along the Bankside, near Newbold Close, at about 3.30am.

But a police spokesman said: "It has been established no offence took place and there will be no further action."

Flog It! star at event

BANBURY: Champagne and canapes will be on offer at the grand opening of a new wing at Banbury Antiques Centre, in Wardington.

Mark Stacey, of the BBC's *Flog It!* auction programme, will attend the opening on Saturday.

Construction has doubled the building's capacity, with space for 30 new traders.

Poetry competition

DEDDINGTON: School-age children are invited to 'light up their imaginations' and submit a story or poem for a writing competition.

The contest forms part of the 2015 Deddington Festival, from June 12 to 20.

This year the festival celebrates the Unesco International Year of Light, an initiative highlighting the importance of light and optical technologies.

The competition is open to children in years 3 to 11 or equivalent. Stories can be up to 500 words and poems up to 50 words. Judging is by author Jo Eames, screenwriter Sophie Hetherington and playwright Jason Hewitt.

Submission deadline is March 25. See deddingtonfestival.org/writing-competition



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Man to face trial for child sex bid

BANBURY: A 44-year-old man will stand trial for attempting to arrange sex with a child under 13. Simon Veale, of Edmunds Road, Banbury, pleaded not guilty at Oxford Crown Court on Friday to the charge of attempting between January and March 2014 to arrange the commission of an act which would have involved penetrative sexual activity with the child.

He also pleaded not guilty to making 2,149 indecent photographs of children on a mobile phone between 2012 and 2014 and a separate charge of making 677 indecent photographs between February 2003 and March 2014.

Veale pleaded not guilty to a final charge of distributing 23 indecent photographs of children on a mobile phone.

His trial will begin on August 12.

BT jobs on call

OXON: The county is set to benefit from BT's plans to create 1,000 new apprentices and graduate jobs around the UK.

The company announced the new jobs in a range of areas including software development, IT, engineering and digital technology in locations including Oxfordshire.

BT was unable to confirm yet how many positions would be created and where.

A third of the new apprentices would be recruited into BT's local network business, Openreach.

They would be focused on extending the fibre network, improving service and keeping Britain connected.

Don't waste your right to choose who governs you

Retired army officer and pensioner join the Cake's campaign to get people to use their vote

Luke Sproule
lsproule@nqo.com

IT IS less than two months until the General Election, expected to be the closest in a generation, and the *Banbury Cake* is urging people to sign up and vote.

Almost one in three people in Oxfordshire are not signed up to the electoral register, which means they will not be able to cast a ballot and decide who runs our country for the next five years.

Military veterans, life-long voters, first-time voters and politicians have backed our campaign to ensure people give themselves the opportunity to have their say on May 7.

The deadline to register is April 20, which will allow people to vote in the General Election and in any council elections taking place where they live.

There will be council elections in Vale of White Horse, South Oxfordshire, West Oxfordshire and Cherwell.

Retired army major Terry Roper is one of those who



Terry Roper wants people to vote because so many servicemen died for democracy



Pensioner Brenda Walton

has urged the people of Oxfordshire to use their vote.

Mr Roper, who left the armed forces in 2012 after 42 years, served in many countries where democracy has only recently been established.

The 66-year-old said 2015 was a particularly important year for people to remember the sacrifices made so they could vote.

He said: "Last August marked the centenary of the start of the First World War, which we fought for freedom, and this year is the 70th anniversary of the end

of the Second World War.

"This year we are also marking 800 years since Magna Carta was signed.

"When we look back it was the First World War that really got women the right to vote in 1918."

Mr Roper first voted in a General Election in 1970, when Ted Heath became Prime Minister, and joined the Royal Green Jackets the same year.

He served with the fourth and fifth battalions of the regiment until 2007 when it was amalgamated with three other regiments to become

The Rifles. His service took him to Lithuania, Ukraine and Macedonia between 2002 and 2012, one-party states until the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

Mr Roper said: "I really think voting is something people will not miss until it is gone.

"I have seen the aftermath of not having a democracy in other countries where people are using their democratic right.

"They have now got freedom of speech and they can vote for a political party rather than one man or one woman.

"They are proud to have the choice that we have."

Mr Roper, who is now the chairman of the Oxford branch of the Royal Green Jackets Association, said who people voted for was not as important as voting itself.

Pensioner Brenda Walton, 70, has been casting her ballot for even longer than Mr Roper, having first voted in the 1966 General Election. She 'despairs' at women who do not vote and is 'incredulous' that students are failing to register to vote.

"My mum and dad instilled in me the importance of voting and I believe it's important to vote, especially being a woman, because the suffragettes fought hard to get the vote for women."



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Radio DJ Simon Mayo met pupils at Sibford School to talk about his new children’s book

DJ visits students

■ BBC's Simon Mayo talks to pupils about new book at meet and greet

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

SIMON Mayo drew excited crowds at Sibford School, The Hill, at a book signing event.

The radio personality and DJ discussed his children’s tril-

ogy *Itch*, *Itch Rocks* and *Itchcraft*, about teenage chemistry fanatic Itchingham Lofte and his mission to collect all the elements in the periodic table.

Sibford’s students gathered with pupils from neighbouring primary schools Sibford Gower Endowed, Hook Norton, Brailles, Bishop Carpenter, Great Roll-right, Shenington and Wroxton.

Mr Mayo shocked and delighted audiences by setting fire to a 10 euro note. He then read an extract from his latest novel *Itch-*

craft, where the lead character and classmates are caught up in a riot in Madrid caused by money spontaneously combusting.

Edward Goundrey-Smith, 14, said: “We’ve had a few authors in school but none have ever burnt money on stage before. It was really exciting.”

Afterwards, students queued up to get their own copies signed.

Librarian Frances King, who organised the day, said: “We were thrilled Simon was able to come and that other schools joined us.”

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It’s been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director James Miller feels that it’s all about service. ‘Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 10 year guarantee. But it’s not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn’t focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn’t expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.’

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and James is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. ‘The truth is that it’s not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I’ve done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.’

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give James a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he’ll be happy to help!



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Volunteers go that extra mile

Banbury community transport service notches up its 500th passenger

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

THE Community Transport Service run by Banbury's Volunteer Connect organisation has just carried its 500th passenger.

Since its inception almost three years ago the 45-driver service has helped clients make more than 4,500 journeys. It is supported by Cherwell District Council and has now been extended for a further two years.

The first journey was from Steeple Aston to Deddington Surgery in October 2012.

Most passengers use the service to attend medical appointments, often when there are problems accessing public transport. But others have been taken shopping, to social events and to visit family members in care homes.

Manager Pip Dealtry said: "When we started I couldn't imagine we would reach these numbers. Now we operate throughout the Cherwell area."

"We have an incredible team of drivers who give their time



Mike Shann, who is one of a team of 45 drivers, with Pip Dealtry, from Banbury Voluntary Connect

freely and who often go the extra mile by supporting our service users when they need help finding the right hospital department."

For volunteer Mike Shann, 59, from Hanwell, driving passengers is not just a service but a social experience.

He said: "It's amazing. You talk about all that has gone on and what they have done. You have some fantastic conversations. I tend to take quite a lot of the same people

and we usually sit and have a cup of tea and a biscuit at their house."

Mr Shann is retired and has been volunteering for six months. He drives for up to 25 hours a week, with trips to the John Radcliffe Hospital lasting up to six hours. Despite the waits, he said, helping passengers – mostly elderly – was rewarding.

Call Sharon Graham on 01295 221442 or email sharon.graham@banburycab.org

Cash boost for disabled dogs charity

JUST weeks after receiving a £20,000 grant from the UPS foundation, Banbury-based Dogs for the Disabled has had a second windfall – this time to the tune of more than £53,000.

Majestic Wine plc, the UK's largest retailer of mixed wine cases, raised £53,542 for the charity.

Dogs for the Disabled provides trained assistance dogs to people with disabilities and children with autism. It was nominated as Majestic's charity of the year for 2014.

In-store collection tins, team activities, raffles and social events all contributed to the final sum. Ten store managers also completed the Marathon du Médoc, a 26.3 mile race around Bordeaux vineyards.

Dogs for the Disabled marketing director Steve Billington said: "It was great to be Majestic Wine's charity partner in 2014. The money raised will bring the life-changing benefits of an assistance dog to more people over the coming year."

"Our puppies and assistance dogs loved visiting Majestic stores with their socialisers and owners, meeting staff and customers and showing them some of the amazing things they can do."

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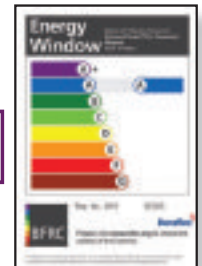
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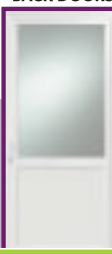
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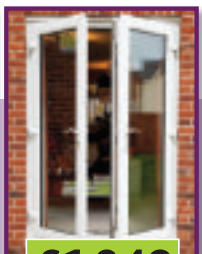
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Rail line to reopen after landslip work finishes early

THE railway line between Banbury and Leamington Spa is set to reopen tomorrow – three weeks ahead of schedule.

Network Rail confirmed last week that the line would reopen on Friday.

The route between London and Birmingham has been closed since January 31 following a 350,000-tonne landslip near Harbury tunnel.

The route is used by 130-trains-a-day.

Network Rail chief executive Mark Carne said:

“Thousands of passengers, and thousands of tonnes of freight, rely on this vital route every day.

“Harbury cutting has suffered from landslips for more than 150 years. We have secured the cutting and made it safe and will carry out long-term repairs which will significantly reduce the chances of similar incidents in the future.

“I would like to thank passengers and the residents of Harbury for their ongoing patience while we fix the

landslip and carry out further repairs ahead of the reopening.”

The news came as a surprise after Network Rail announced in February that the line would stay closed until Easter.

Network Rail will remain onsite for several months after the reopening, working on a permanent solution for the 30ft-deep cutting's history of landslips.

Discussions will take place with local people on final plans for the landscaping of

the surrounding area. Cross-Country managing director Andy Cooper said: “The early completion of the work is great news as we will again be able to provide through journeys by train for our long distance and local customers. The priority now is to rebuild our customers' confidence in a reliable rail service.”

A replacement bus service between Banbury and Leamington Spa will stop operating today. Freight trains have been running overnight on

the line since Monday ahead of tomorrow's full reopening.

Chris Bates, chairman of the Cherwell Rail Users group and has had to “throw away tickets” since the landslip, said of the move: “I suspect they're using their first trains as a test.

“It's really good news. I hope that Network Rail have learned their lesson regarding getting work done before there's a problem, not after.”

But he added that the announcement was also “an

extremely good use of expectation management. You set a date far in advance until you learn a lot more. They would be extremely stupid now to let it slip behind this date.”

Banbury town councillor Colin Clarke said: “It will make life easier for a lot of people. There have been traffic difficulties with the coaches and it will alleviate that.

“In all fairness, if Network Rail set an earlier date before it would have been a black mark against them.”



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Darran Reynolds: Regional Digital Commercial Manager (Newsquest Oxfordshire and Wiltshire) darran.reynolds@oxfordshire.newsquest.co.uk or, why not give me a call for a brief chat on 01865 425270

Closing date for Applications is 13th March 2015



Committee members Belinda Ellis (left) and Phil Slater pictured in front of The Red Lion pub in Bloxham

Pub now in dire state say group

TIME is running out for a village steering group's bid to take over an abandoned pub in Bloxham, a campaigner has claimed.

The once-popular Red Lion in Bloxham High Street closed in August 2013 and has lain empty ever since.

Residents have been negotiating to buy the property from Fuller's brewery and restore it as a family pub and restaurant. But according to barrister Colin Challenger, who frequented the pub for 25 years, the situation is now dire as the building is falling into disrepair.

Mr Challenger, 69, said: “My wife visited the site in December with a surveyor. Stand beside it for five minutes and you will see the rats pouring in.

“The interior is covered with blue slime and fungus. The roof is falling in.

“It reeks of damp. The kitchen has been torn out and the furnishings are smashed up.”

Several people have recently approached the steering group with development proposals.

On February 8, more than 120 people attended a meeting at the Wariner School Hall, where they discussed a com-

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

plete restoration managed by caterer Wendy Dickens.

Then, on Saturday, February 28, the steering group also met briefly with property developer Mike Halliwell, who has run similar projects in London and Leamington.

There it was suggested the pub be turned into a wine bar and restaurant, with an attached bric-a-brac store.

Mr Challenger said: “At the moment nothing is going anywhere because for any proposal to work, Fuller's have to agree. At the moment they're prepared to sell it on terms which are hopeless.

“The asking price is close to double the market price.”

At present the asking price for the building, listed as an “asset of community value” under the Localism Act 2011, is £400,000.

Chris Irving, from letting agents Fleurets which are managing the sale of the property, said: “The site is still for sale to anyone who

puts in a satisfactory offer. Actually, the price has come down in the last year.

“It could have been sold to other parties but the level of village interest has put other people off.

“It's almost been counter-productive.”

He added that while Fleurets was receiving quite a lot of interest in the Red Lion, the steering team had mainly been speaking directly to Fuller's.

Fuller's did not respond to requests for comment.

Bloxham-based management consultant Phil Slater, also on the village steering team, said the group's ambitions for the site remained the same and he hoped to speak with Fuller's about it in the near future.

He said: “I was a customer in days gone by and saw how successful the pub could be at its peak. There's no reason why it should not be so again.”

If restored, the Red Lion would be one of just three pubs in Bloxham alongside the Joiners Arms in Old Bridge Road and the Elephant and Castle in Humber Street.

The village used to have seven pubs of its own.

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Two people are taken to hospital after road collision

TWO people were taken to hospital after a three-car collision on the M40 near Ardley on Sunday, police said.

Thames Valley Police were called to the collision between a red Fiat Panda, a grey Peugeot 308 and a green Volkswagen Golf at 11.23am.

Lane three was closed as vehicles were recovered causing queues from Junction 10 for Brackley and Junction 11 for Banbury.

Police spokeswoman Lucy Billen said two people were taken to Banbury's Horton General Hospital with non-serious injuries.

Four people were injured on Friday in a four-vehicle accident on the northbound carriageway of the M40 near Bicester at 1.45pm. South Central Ambulance Service said it treated four patients at the scene.

Nominations for engineers are wanted

NOMINATIONS are being sought to find this year's top young engineers across Oxfordshire.

This year's High Sheriff of Oxfordshire Young Engineer Awards are now open for entries and is looking to celebrate the achievements of the county's young engineers.

Nominations can come from schools, colleges and training providers for categories including best and most improved student, aged 14-16, or 16-19.

The awards will be presented to students by the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire Tony Stratton, at an event on Wednesday, July 1, at co-sponsors Lucy Electric in Thame.

Also sponsoring the event is Activate Learning, education and training that works with organisations across Oxfordshire.

The deadline for entries is Thursday, April 30, to request a nomination form email jonathan.goode@activatelearning.ac.uk.

Museum is to benefit from £35k arts grant

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

BANBURY Museum has received a windfall of more than £35,000 courtesy of Arts Council England.

Following a successful application last November, the museum has been awarded the grant of £35,175 from the Arts Council's Museum Resilience Fund.

The fund aims to change the way museums operate by making them more sustainable and resilient.

Museum director Simon Townsend said: "I'm very pleased. The museum has been looking at improvements in this economic climate."

One of the projects funded is an asset review, which will look at how aspects of the building including the shop, cafe and room hire services are used, and how their use could be improved in line with public demand.

The project will begin on April 1, and end in October or November.

Mr Townsend added: "It's very useful and will enable us to make better decisions about the future. We have a five-year business plan, which we review every year.

"We hope to be here for decades."

About 180,000 people visit the museum every year. Aided by the Heritage Lottery Fund, it relocated to the town centre in 2002.

Mr Townsend said: "It draws in visitors from Banbury and further afield and has very much of a regional punch."

Last year the museum ran an exhibition called Feeding the Front Line: Banbury's explosive role in the First World War, which explored the history of a now-vanished ammunition filling factory just south of the M40.

It was also one of just five museums UK-wide to host the Royal Photographic Society's annual photographic competition entries.

Two establishments in Oxfordshire received the new grant. Oxford Museum was awarded £97,995 to test and develop its digital skills.

Hedley Swain, Arts Council England's area director for the South East, said: "We are pleased to be able to support Banbury Museum and the Museum of Oxford."

Operation of Banbury Museum was taken over from Cherwell District Council in 2013, by the Banbury Museum Trust, meaning it now has charity status.

About 20 volunteers have been recruited since then but the museum is now looking for more. For information and to apply visit banburymuseum.org/volunteer.



Simon Townsend, director of Banbury Museum, which has received a £35,000 grant from the Arts Council

Baby lambs arrive for school scheme

SPRING sprang at Sibford school, The Hill with the arrival of two baby lambs.

The lambs, named Angel and Flynn, are being housed in an animal shed onsite as part of Sibford's livestock scheme.

Different animals are brought in each term to give pupils the chance to learn about them and agriculture.

Pigs will be welcomed later in the summer, followed by cows in the autumn.

Sibford pupils including Grace Marot, 11, Jessica Main, 12 and Hannah Denley, 12, were on hand to feed the hungry new arrivals last week.

Grace said: "The lambs were really cute.

"The funniest bit was when we went in and one of the lambs jumped off the hay and straight into Jess's lap."

Jessica said: "I really like



Grace Marot, 11 and Hannah Denley, 12

the lambs. They're my favourites. You can get much closer to the lambs than you can the calves and the pigs."

Both of the lambs will stay at Sibford until Easter.



Blessed George Napier School pupils prepare for their fast

Pupils go hungry for a day to help natural disaster victims

STUDENTS at a Banbury Catholic school embarked on a fast to raise money for people affected by weather disasters.

Pupils in Years 11, 12 and 13 at Blessed George Napier Catholic School went without food from 8am to 8pm on Friday to raise awareness for the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development's (CAFOD) Lent appeal.

The appeal focuses this year on rebuilding lives after natural

disasters such as typhoons, cyclones and tsunamis.

RE teacher Lizzie Harris said: "It's always difficult cutting out something that we take for granted in our lives, so going without food for 12 hours is a real sacrifice."

The students put on brave faces. Student Allanagh Davies said: "It's been tricky, but nothing compared with what other people go through every day. We hope our contribution will make a big difference."



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Books can help dementia battle

Scheme allows mental health sufferers to read up on their conditions

Luke Sproule
lsproule@nqo.com

LIBRARIES in Oxfordshire – including the branch in Banbury – have signed up to a new scheme to help people suffering from dementia and their carers.

The Reading Well Books on Prescription scheme was launched by charity The Reading Agency in 2013, to help people with mental health problems.

It has now been expanded to specifically work with people with dementia and 12 Oxfordshire libraries have signed up.

The scheme is partly funded by Arts Council England and backed by Alzheimer's Society, Royal College of Nursing and NHS England.

Each library taking part will have a selection of books recommended by dementia experts, which people suffering from the condition can read to help understand their condition.

The books will also be available to carers to offer advice and help about looking after some-



The county council's culture chief, Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

one with dementia. GPs are able to recommend books to their patients and they can then request these when they visit a library.

The county council's culture chief, Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, said: "Libraries have a significant role in helping to build dementia-friendly communities.

"This scheme provides quality information and advice, support following diagnosis and with

early memory loss, practical and emotional help for carers and suggested activities to help people remain active and independent for as long as possible."

Reading Well Books on Prescription has 25 books on the list, offering practical advice for carers. People with a prescription ask their local library and will be advised on which books to choose from the scheme's list.

Charities boosted with extra cash

GOOD causes across the county are celebrating after receiving a cash boost from a housing association.

Sovereign Housing Association's Oxfordshire and borders regional panel donated £38,000 to Oxfordshire charities and community groups.

The housing association awarded funding to 43 good causes, including youth clubs, food banks, disabled groups and mental health charities.

Chairwoman of the panel Joyce Ward said: "We're always amazed at the variety of groups in the region and how much work people are doing in their communities. It's rewarding to be able to give them some funding to help them continue their great work."

Applicants were nominated by housing association residents at an event at Drayton Village Hall last month before a vote was held.

Anti-loneliness charity Archway Foundation, which supports people in Oxford

and Abingdon, was one group which benefited.

Coordinator Joy Dadswell said: "We would like to say a huge thank you for this award. We were very pleased to be nominated by one of the people who attend our social group."

"Loneliness can affect people of all ages for different reasons. We are delighted that the money will enable us to increase the number of people we can help."

Groups funded last year include Oxford's Stroke Club, charity Respite Nursing for Oxfordshire's Sick Youngsters (ROSY) and disabled charity Unlimited Oxfordshire.

The Stroke Club, which was set up by stroke survivors to help other stroke victims, used cash to launch a new interactive website and ROSY used funding to buy equipment for youngsters.

Unlimited Oxfordshire spent its grant to pay for renting space for its coffee events, as well as paying for refreshments.

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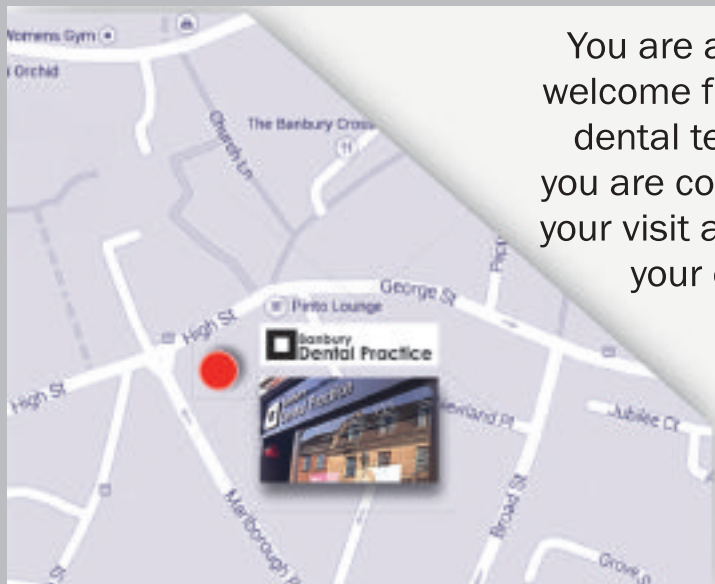
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Scouts scoop top accolades



The 1st Adderbury Troop members

SCOUTS at the 1st Adderbury Troop have received a top award in recognition of their achievements.

Last week, Ben Brown, Alfie Bullus, Danny O'Toole, Bryn Taylor-Evans and Iwan Taylor Evans, all aged 14, and Dylan Patel, 15, all from Adderbury, received their Chief Scout's Gold Awards in front of troop members and families.

The award marks the end of a youngster's time in the Scouts.

The boys had completed a series of badges, taken on community work and assumed roles of responsibility within the troop.

They also attempted outdoor activities like a mountain expedition, white water rafting, canoeing, caving and a high ropes course.

Scout leader Andy Green said: "They have worked really hard for this award."

"Having six Scouts all gain the award in one year is something we are very proud of."

"The Chief Scout's Gold Award is highly respected."

"It is also something, which will aid them as they seek college or university places, and apply for jobs in the future."

Fourteen-year-old Iwan Taylor Evans, who attends the Warriner School in Banbury, said: "Getting the award will help me stand out from the crowd."

"I have worked really hard to complete all the components towards the award over the past four years and was really happy when I finally received it."

Future is unresolved



The "library" phone box

NO DECISION has yet been made on Banbury's now-famous phone box library.

Last month the town council and BT plc locked horns over books and shelving inside the phone box. After BT threatened to close it down for safety reasons, Banbury Town Council said it would "adopt" the box on the condition the phone continued to function. Last year more than 1,000 calls were made there.

But BT insisted the phone would need to be decommissioned.

Student finds grave of ancestor on a trip

Pupil discovers the memorial of her great-great-grandfather, who was killed in the First World War, while travelling



Pupils from Chenderit School have returned from a trip to First World War battlefields in Belgium and France

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

A SECONDARY school pupil was reduced to tears during a First World War history trip to Belgium and France, where she discovered her great-great-grandfather's grave.

Rosie Mallory, who attends Chenderit School and turns 15 today, embarked on the trip from Friday, February 27, to Monday, March 2, with fellow student Lily Searle, 15, and history teacher Steve Birkett as part of a government-funded initiative.

The First World War Centenary Battlefields Programme runs until 2019, and aims to send two pupils from each state school on a tour of the Western Front.

Students from the North Oxfordshire Academy, Banbury, also went on the same dates.

Following an "acclimatisation session" in Kent, the group crossed the channel and spent the first day based in Ypres, Belgium.

Rosie had done some research in advance and was able to find her great-great-grandfather's burial place in the Ploegsteert Memorial, known to British soldiers at the time as "Plug Street".

Rosie lives in Middleton Cheney with father David and stepmother Danielle. She is the first family member to have visited and laid a wreath.

She said: "We'd already been to quite a few places and seen thousands of names on graves. To see one that belongs to your family is really special."

Lance Corporal Albert Mallory, who served in the East Yorkshire regiment, was killed by sniper fire in Belgium on September 10, 1918. He was 32 at the time and left behind a wife and two young sons, one of whom, George Mallory, was Rosie's great-grandfather.

Rosie's grandparents also kept a box of letters sent from Lance Corporal Mallory to his wife Annie during his time in the trenches.

They said he was four feet deep in the ground with old

doors stacked on top to keep warm, and that the enemy would be shelling a hill 300 yards from the trench.

One letter, to be delivered in the event of his death, reads:

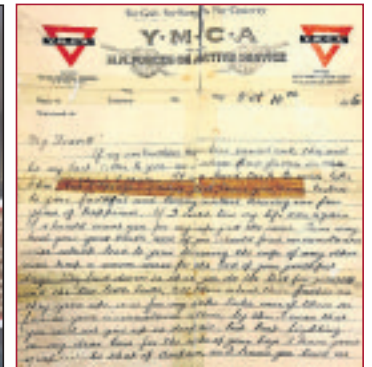
"My last desire is that you do the best for yourself and the two little lads... I know you loved me to the very bottom of your affectionate nature, and if there is a Great Beyond where the souls of beings meet again, may we do so".

Rosie said: "I'm lucky to know quite a lot about him, because I realise a lot of people don't have that."

"My great-grandfather died last year - I didn't know I would be going on the trip but I think he would be quite proud now."

On the same evening, the Chenderit group also attended the nightly memorial service at the Menin Gate in Ypres, also attended by the British Ambassador for Belgium and serving British soldiers.

Lily was invited to lay a wreath as part of the ceremony. She said: "It was sad. They



A letter written by Albert Mallory



Albert Mallory who was killed in the war

hold it every night, and it makes you feel like they haven't moved on. But I felt proud I contributed and can say I'm part of the millions of people who remember."

The group then travelled to France, visiting various sites around the Somme including the Thiepval Memorial.

On Monday, they saw memorials to German and Indian soldiers as well as the Tynecot memorial to British soldiers.

Teacher Steve Birkett, 40, has taught at Chenderit for 10 years. He said: "I'd not done trips like this for a very long time. It certainly inspired me to do more."

Both girls studied the First World War in Year Nine but Mr Birkett said he believed the memorials "came to life" after Rosie's discovery: "I think it became real for them. It wasn't just a piece of history."

Both girls are currently in Year 10 studying for their first round of GCSEs.

Rosie Mallory now plans to take a history A-level.

Community encouraged to come together and help clean the streets

RESIDENTS are being urged to tidy up for the 11th annual Community Clean Up event.

Cherwell District Council's lead member for clean and green Tony Ilott said: "Cherwell has a team of staff who work 365 days a year to keep the district clean for our residents but unfortunately as hard

as they try, they can not be everywhere on time.

"Therefore we are endorsing the theory that many hands make light work and encouraging the people of Cherwell to each give a little bit of time to help make a big difference to where they live."

Since launching, 32 tonnes of

rubbish have been taken off Cherwell's streets as part of the event.

This year the event will run from Friday, April 10, to Monday, April 27, and the district council will provide those involved with free cotton gloves and waste or recycling sacks.

Litter pickers and high-visibility

jackets can be rented also.

Mr Ilott added: "In addition to making the area better for themselves, volunteers will also help to improve things for the local environment and wildlife."

For more information contact 01295 227003 or customer.service@cherwell-dc.gov.uk.

Woman's life 'saved' by the street triage project

The scheme has helped hundreds of people since its creation in 2013

Alex Wynick
awynick@nqo.com

A SCHEME that teams up police officers and mental health workers "saved the life" of one Oxfordshire woman.

The street triage project, which started in December 2013, means there are more resources every evening between 6pm-2am to help people who call the police feeling desperate.

One woman, who did not want to be named, said the team stopped her from committing suicide in November.

She said: "I have depression and panic attacks and my 19-year-old son is autistic, which is a nightmare sometimes.

"One day I came home from work and all of a sudden I had feeling that went through me.

"I exploded, I wanted to end it all. It was terrifying."

The 45-year-old pressed the panic alarm that had been given to her by doctors, calling the police to her address.

She said: "They rang the street

triage team and I spoke to a mental health worker called Cathy.

"She immediately made me feel listened to and calm.

"A weight was lifted off my shoulders."

The team arranged for her to get help at a psychiatric unit and daily support.

The charity worker was one of 796 people helped by the street triage team, which attended 1,039 incidents in the scheme's first year.

And those sent to police cells – when NHS facilities are not available – fell from 109 in 2013 to 30.

The project, run jointly by Thames Valley Police and Oxford Health NHS Foundation, has been funded by the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group for another year.

Thames Valley Police Assistant Chief Constable Alan Baldwin said: "The team has made a significant impact by putting the needs of the person at the heart of the service, proving that by working in partnership we can find more appropriate pathways for those in crisis.

"There is still some way to go to resolve issues at a local and national level.

"Recognising this I am committed to developing our Street Triage partnership in Oxfordshire."



Thames Valley Police Assistant Chief Constable Alan Baldwin

Firms to receive business rates

BUSINESSES across Cherwell will receive new business rates this week as set by the government.

Cherwell District Council are sending bills with the new individual business rates for the 2015/16 financial year.

Lead member for finance for the council Ken Attack said: "We are approaching the end of the 2014/2015 financial year and as such it is time to issue the annual bills for 2015/2016 year. "Contrary to popular belief, Cherwell does not set the rates and has no control over how much each firm is billed. However we are responsible for collecting them and the money is used to help fund the provision of local services."

Since April 2013, authorities have been allowed to keep a proportion of a company's business rate to help fund local services. The collected rates are shared between the government, Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council.

Mr Attack said: "On receiving their bill, business owners are advised to check the details are correct and inform Cherwell of any discrepancies immediately.

"Bills can be paid manually or by direct debit over ten or 12 months or annually if preferred but will default to the same payment system as used last year unless we are notified of any changes. We would therefore urge anyone with any changes to contact us as soon as possible so we can amend the details prior to the start of the new financial year on April 1."

Along with the bill will be information on how rates are calculated, what discounts are available to individual businesses and how to pay.

For more information contact business.rates@cherwell-dc.gov.uk.

HAYS EDUCATION SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES IN OXFORDSHIRE

Hays Education, the leading recruiting expert, has successfully launched a new education team in Oxford, serving schools and teaching professionals within the renowned hub of British education. The new team of specialist education consultants recruit across primary and secondary education for both temporary supply and permanent positions in response to the continued high demand for teaching professionals within the area.



The new education team in Oxford is already offering local education providers a truly expert recruitment service and providing teaching professionals job opportunities and advice on taking their next career move.

The team of specialist consultants recognise the important role that teachers and support staff play in a school environment and that having committed and skilled members of staff makes all the difference to a child's learning.

Hays has had a presence in Oxford for over 25 years, offering recruitment services across accountancy and finance, construction and property, office administration, PA and secretarial, human resources and now education, to local organisations.

Across the UK, Hays Education, brings together local education leaders in forums to discuss changes to the curriculum, share best practice tips and stories of success and these will now also be part of Hays Education's offering for teachers in Oxford.

The Hays Education team is currently recruiting for SEN, primary key stage one teachers, and English, maths and science secondary teachers.

To register your interest in our leadership events, for further information on the services that the Hays Education team offers in Oxford, or to speak with a specialist consultant about your next career move, please contact the Oxford team on 01865 248 713.

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Cherwell presses on with joint councils move despite hitch

PLANS for more co-operation with other councils are to be pursued by Cherwell District Council, despite another authority opting to delay its involvement in the project.

In December last year Cherwell said it was going to explore working more closely with South Northamptonshire Council and Stratford-on-Avon District Council in order to cut costs.

Stratford said recently it would delay its decision on the joint-working until after the General Election in May, but Cherwell and South Northamptonshire said they would press ahead.

Cherwell District Council said the two councils hoped to save up to £12m in the coming years by sharing services.

Details have not yet been given on what services would be shared.

Cherwell District Council leader Barry Wood said: "Local authorities are facing an uncertain future in the wake of reductions in Government grants and an increasing population.

"So at the end of last year all three authorities agreed to further explore the possibility of saving money via various scenarios including joint working and the use of council-owned companies."

South Northamptonshire Council leader Mary Clarke said: "We and Cherwell have agreed to push on and review all of our service areas to see which can be shared to generate savings.

"If all goes to plan we expect that over a 10-year period joint working could generate additional savings of £4m for South Northamptonshire and a further £8m for Cherwell. This helps to protect

Couple get royal shock with a discovery in wall

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

AN ENGLISHMAN'S home is his castle, or so the saying goes.

But for David Crabtree and partner Karen Leonard, their labourer's cottage has gone one step further. As workers knocked down a wall to begin building a two-storey extension, they uncovered large white coloured stones in the rubble.

Once they put the 10 blocks together like a giant jigsaw puzzle, the couple realised they had a full blown royal coat of arms.

Mr Crabtree, 56, said: "We were

just astonished at what we were discovering and how exquisite and beautiful the carvings were as it's very high quality work.

"It's a full royal coat of arms. The question is what was it doing buried in the walls of a labourers' cottage."

Former television journalist Mr Crabtree, 56, and his partner Ms Leonard, 51, bought their cottage in Hanwell last year.

Their new pile is just a stone's throw from the historic Hanwell Castle, which dates to the 15th century.

Historians think the carvings date to the reign of Henry VIII or Elizabeth I, and suspect they were originally designed as a great centrepiece for the great hall at Hanwell Castle.

It is thought they may have been made for a royal visit to the castle by Henry VIII

himself. Medieval specialist Dr Rowena E Archer, a fellow of Brasenose College, now lives in part of the historic castle.

Dr Archer said: "The sculpture of the full achievement of the royal arms of England, complete with the supporters of a lion and a griffin, or dragon, and the motto of the Order of the Garter, was probably a great over-mantel above a chimney. It might possibly have been put up on the occasion of a visit to Hanwell by Henry VIII and Katherine Parr.

"The royal couple visited Woodstock in September 1543, and Anthony Cope, William Cope's second son, and the heir to Hanwell, was by then Queen Katherine's Vice Chamberlain, the Copes having been linked to the Parrs for some time.

"Certainly it would not have been far to go from Woodstock to Hanwell to

visit and see the recently completed and very grand house. What better moment to set up a royal coat of arms to display their loyalty by a relatively minor member of the royal household?"

When they uncovered the carvings, Mr Crabtree said they were turned inwards and packed with mud as if to protect them.

He said: "It is possible that the coat of arms was hidden in the walls during the civil war period when Parliamentary troops were billeted at Hanwell castle.

"The English Parliamentary general William Waller stayed at the castle the night before the Battle of Cropredy Bridge in June 1644. He would not have taken kindly to the presence of a royal coat of arms in his barracks."

The couple plan to live in the cottage and may put the coat of arms up for auction.



ABOVE: David Crabtree and his partner Karen Leonard with the giant jigsaw puzzle

ABOVE LEFT: Builders uncover the coat of arms embedded in the walls of the cottage in Hanwell

Smokers are reminded that dropping butts carries fine

IN THE lead up to national No Smoking Day residents are reminded it is a criminal offence to drop cigarette butts.

Since April last year, 25 fines have been dished out by Cherwell District Council for the littering of cigarettes.

Smokers are warned the offence has a £75 on-the-spot fine.

The district council's lead member for clean and green Tony Ilott said: "We all know the risks caused by smoking and would encourage as many smokers are possible to find more out about national No Smoking Day to see how it could help.

"In the meantime we would remind those who want to contin-

ue smoking to dispose of butts in a correct manner."

On-the-spot fines can be given, which if they are not paid could result in a court summons.

Mr Ilott said: "Our enforcement officers have the power to issue anyone seen littering with a £75 fixed penalty notice and this includes cigarette butts."

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Women seeking men

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER Smart, spontaneous and honest Witney female, 36, 5'10", slim build, would like to meet a man with a good sense of humour who is caring and affectionate for a special and lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 187097 or send a text to 80360**

THE SPECIAL ONE Shy and sincere Bedford female, 46, enjoys all the quiet things in life, now searching for a genuine, faithful and sincere man, to share friendship, company and loving times with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172147 or send a text to 80360**

CASTLES IN THE AIR Curvy, down-to-earth Buckingham female, 47, 5'4", own home and car, enjoys days out, football and the quiet things in life, seeking a relaxed and friendly man, to share true love. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 165815**

MAKE A REAL FRIEND Curvy, friendly and loving Bedford female, 47, 5'5", hard working, enjoys days out and cosy times, would like to meet a tidy and fun-loving man, for caring and happy times together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 171327**

COULD IT BE MAGIC? Spiritual and genuine Didcot woman, 48, attractive, fun, with growing up children, likes clubs, cafes, music, films, walks and reading, seeking a caring and optimistic man, for friendship first. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123828**

QUALITY OF LIFE Sunny, loving, and loyal Swindon girl, 48, 5'3" average build, likes dining, cinema, walks and travel, looking to find a tactful and endearing man, for love and an honest future. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138116**

THE PERFECT DAY Bright and caring Swindon female, 49, non smoker, enjoys film, theatre, sport and the gym, searching for a genuine man, to build a loving and lasting relationship with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 180762 or send a text to 80360**

WITH PLENTY TO OFFER Emotional, reliable and sensitive Witney girl, 49, 5'5", enjoys cosy nights, cinema and holidays, just looking to meet an independent, reflective gent, for fun and a little romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140276**

SEEKING A CONNECTION Kind-hearted, honest, 50 year old Abingdon-On-Thames female, would like to meet a male, for fun, company and to get to know each other. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 186892 or send a text to 80360**

LET'S LIVE A LITTLE Kind, 51 year old Milton Keynes female, 5'3", blue eyes, blonde hair, like going out for meals, cosy drinks, walking and cosy nights in. Seeks a sincere, honest, reliable male to get to know. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 174599 or send a text to 80360**

COME INTO FOCUS Slim and honest Milton Keynes female, 51, 5'3", enjoys keep fit and all the normal things, simply searching for a decent, romantic man, to share loving times and future happiness. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172417**

HONEST RELATIONSHIP Genuine, friendly and honest, 51 year old Hemel Hempstead female, 5'2", Scorpio star sign, like gardening and car washing. Would like to meet a male, for company, friendship and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 187401 or send a text to 80360**

TIME TO LIVE AGAIN Sweet, attractive, honest and truthful Aylesbury female, 52, 5'6", with plenty of interests in life, searching for an energetic, trustworthy male, for friendship, love and romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 155653**

YUMMY MUMMY Witney female, 52, would like to meet a yummy man, for romance, love and a long-term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 186111 or send a text to 80360**

SOMETHING TO CHERISH Bright, honest blue-eyed Witney female, 52, 5'2", enjoys zumba, swimming and cycling, now searching for a happy and sociable man, to share happy times and a loving future with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 186277 or send a text to 80360**

HOPE THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE Caring, honest and loving, 53 year old Milton Keynes female, would like to meet a man for friendship, going out for meals and possibly more, who knows? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 180004 or send a text to 80360**

OPEN TO OFFERS Independent, intuitive and homely Aylesbury lady, 55, wants to meet an outgoing, self-assured male, for fun, friendship and enjoyable holidays, travel, cooking and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 186178 or send a text to 80360**

ANYONE FOR LOVE? Happy and fun-loving Luton female, 56, widowed, enjoys holidays, travel, cooking and more, would like to meet a happy, fun male, for fun times, evenings out and something special. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167294**

MY HAPPY ENDING Down-to-earth Aylesbury female, 57, non smoker, widows, enjoys holidays, days out, socialising and more, searching for a similar, tender male, for fun and friendship and happy times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 177528 or send a text to 80360**

SOMETHING IN THE AIR Perceptive, polite and romantic Bampton woman, 57, loves family time, socialising and places of interest, would like to find an energetic, caring man, to share the future with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167144**

NOT JUST ANYONE Emotional, aware and decent High Wycombe girl, 57, just looking to meet a calm, tender male, for fun and maybe a little romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161351**

SHALL WE DANCE? Blonde, blue-eyed Swindon girl, 58, friendly nature, well-travelled and loyal, loves life, searching for an active, educated man, who appreciates food, wine and a future in general. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110895**

SINCERE FRIENDSHIP Friendly and cuddly, 58 year old Buckingham female, widow, enjoys walks, meals out and drinks out. Would like to meet a sincere male for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 171702 or send a text to 80360**

ARE YOU MY MATCH? Kind, 59 year old Abingdon female, 5'2", red hair, medium build, love gardening, DIY, fun cosy nights in and cats. Seeking a genuine man with a good sense of humour for a romantic relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 173744 or send a text to 80360**

SAME WAVELENGTH? Warm and sincere, Abingdon female, 60, enjoys cycling, boot sales and walking the dog, would like to meet a calm, genuine and honest man, to share friendship and enjoy happy times with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 187861**

A FRIEND FIRST? Down-to-earth, bubbly, kind and caring, Oxfordshire female, 60, 5'8". Would like to meet a male who is sporty, kind, caring, romantic, loyal, decent and a great sense of humour. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 185724 or send a text to 80360**

IT'S TIME WE MET Cuddly, honest, witty Hemel woman, 60, 5'3", N/S, blonde, likes swimming, theatre and weekends away, seeking a similar, reliable male, for fun and similar interests, to share a happy life. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 153853 or send a text to 80360**

JUST GOOD FRIENDS Sincere, genuine and kind-hearted, 60 year old Luton female, would like to meet a non-smoking, gentle, humorous male, with old fashion values. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 185745 or send a text to 80360**

A BETTER TOMORROW Loving, caring and sincere, 60 year old Aylesbury female, would like to meet a gentleman for companionship and friendship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 186495 or send a text to 80360**

NEED THAT SPECIAL PERSON Intelligent, attractive and well-read Devizes female, 61, widow, enjoys keeping active and swimming, looking for a kind, intelligent, active and friendly man. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 151752 or send a text to 80360**

IS IT HOT IN HERET? Straight-forward, vibrant Milton Keynes woman, 61, blonde, enjoys music, romance and more, would like to meet an open, kind, understanding gent, for fun, friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156926**

TIME TO START AFRESH Warm and attractive Witney female, 62, 5'2", curvy build, likes cooking, evenings out and all the nice things, now seeking a friendly and faithful man, to share and enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128289**

THE LONG TERM Separated, easygoing Oxon female, 62, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100451**

TELL IT TO MY HEART Loyal and caring, 63 year 53 Witney female, would like to meet a male, for company, friendship and maybe a relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 188021 or send a text to 80360**

BRIGHTEN MY DAY Down-to-earth, 64 year old Bicester female, enjoys reading, gardening, rugby, watching sports, eating out, holidays, short breaks, theatre and cinema. Seeks a male for friendship initially. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 175534**

IN PERFECT HARMONY Independent, kind, caring, honest and loyal, 64 year old Milton Keynes female, enjoys travelling, the arts, cooking and eating out. Seeking a loving, caring male for friendship, romance and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 186654 or send a text to 80360**

CHASING DREAMS Quite, polite and easygoing Bletchley female, 65, 5'4", with many interests in life, now would like to find a nice, caring chap, of similar age, for nice company and hopefully a future together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 179624 or send a text to 80360**

THE GOLDEN RULE Fun, open and active Bedford male, 65, enjoys cosy times, social drinks, reading and music, would like to meet a kind, thoughtful and happy male, for friendship and great times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 154642**

MAYBE ROMANCE Blonde Scarlett seeks her Rett, slim, attractive, active, professional, Thame lady, 65, loves dancing, seeks a similar, caring, honest and fun male, for companionship and who knows? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 179554 or send a text to 80360**

A BIG ADVENTURE Kind, 65 year old Chipping Norton female, 5'6", 5'6", slim, own home and car, like walking, cinema, theatre and eating out. Would like to meet a non-smoking male, for friendship, maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 188048**

UP, UP AND AWAY Friendly and honest Aylesbury female, 67, retired, widowed, non smoker, enjoys camping, weekends away and socialising, now searching for a warm and genuine man, for loving times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 176427 or send a text to 80360**

JUST GOOD TIMES Honest and caring, 68 year old Luton female, widow, 5'8", blue eyes, non-smoker, down-to-earth, would like to meet a like-minded gent to share a happy friendship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 187783**

COMPANY AND CONVERSATION Kind, faithful and honest Bedfordshire female, 69, would like to meet a tender and caring man, to enjoy evenings out, holidays and general good company. Are you the one for me? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 176924**

REASON TO LOVE Smart, youthful lady, 71, sincere, non smoker, enjoys travelling, theatre, bingo and weekend breaks, searching for a happy and honest man, to share friendship, company and happy times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 180022 or send a text to 80360**

HAPPY TO HEAR FROM YOU Very lovely, 73 year old Tring female, widow, enjoys going out, would like to meet a reliable, gentle man of a similar age, for friendship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 187904**

WALK OF LIFE Self-assured, strong-minded and motivated Bampton girl, 73, just looking to meet a friendly, trustworthy male, for a special and lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156046**

COMPLETE THE PICTURE Attractive and honest Swindon lady, 76, 5'5", loves cinema, theatre, the National Trust, walks and more, would like to meet a tall, non-smoking gent, to enjoy life and love with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140415**

Men seeking women

MXK AND MATCH Sociable 35 year old Oxford guy, like running, outdoors, art and music. Searching for an outgoing girl, for go's'10's, and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 174011**

SUCH A DELIGHT Kind-hearted and active Oxford man, 38, enjoys sport, keep fit, dining and more, would like to meet a sincere, straight-forward female, for company, days out and to share life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147290**

WE COULD BE GOOD TOGETHER Down to earth Swindon male, 39, enjoys cycling, walks, travel and lots more, seeks laid back female, fit, civilized female, for friendship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100773**

CLOSER THAN CLOSE TALL Fit, Luton-based West Indian male, 41, solvent and straight-forward, loves most things in life, would like to meet a sincere and loyal female, with a nice personality, to love. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 171019 or send a text to 80360**

QUALITY COUNTS Emotional, decent and sincere Bampton guy, 42, enjoys all the normal things in life, just looking to meet a peaceful, civilized female, for friendship, good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 112553 or send a text to 80360**

TAKE A LOOK AT ME Green-eyed Oxfordshire Fireman, 42, 5'10", fit, enjoys clubs, nights out, shopping and cosy times, would love to meet a slim, like-minded woman, with no ties, for friendship and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 183433**

LOVE TO MEET YOU Outgoing Abingdon-On-Thames male, 42, blond hair, blue eyes, wear glasses, 5'10", have a grow-up son, like heavy metal music, travel, pubs and meeting new people. Seeking a female for company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 188130 or send a text to 80360**

ARE YOU MY KIND? Kind, caring, 43 year old Oxford male, 5'10", slim build, own car, likes meals out, music, the beach, cinema, pubs and travel. Seeking female between 20-40 for long-term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172910**

SO MUCH TO SHARE Decent-looking Dunstable male, 44, 5'9", 5'10", have a own business, loves travel, sport and lots more, just looking for a decent, friendly woman, for friendship, company and happy times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 177611 or send a text to 80360**

THIS ENCHANTED EVENING Understanding and caring Oxford male, 47, 5'11", blue eyes, enjoys walks in the countryside, old pubs, fitness and sport, searching for an affectionate female, for loving times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170899**

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL Kind, caring and down-to-earth Thame male, 48, with plenty of active interests in life, now seeking a kind, sincere, slim female, to share days out, company and future happiness. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137427**

FROM THE HEART Stable, dependable and energetic Wantage man, 48, 5'8", non-smoker, enjoys sports and socialising. Would like a date with a sensitive, confident female. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 182758 or send a text to 80360**

LIFE, LOVE & HAPPINESS Affectionate, loyal and romantic Milton Keynes male, 50, 5'11", slim, enjoys dog walks, museums and travelling. Would like to meet a local lady, for a loving and lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 155734**

CHEEK TO CHEEK Hard-working and happy Oxford male, 52, 5'7", own home, enjoys socialising, cooking, nights in and good company, now searching for a nice, sincere lady, to share friendship, love and laughter. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 122107 or send a text to 80360**

LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH Friendly, warm-hearted Abingdon male, 53, good sense of humour, would like to meet a caring, well-matured girl, to enjoy good times together. Is you're looking for true love then get in touch. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 15894**

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OPEN MY HEART Kind, caring, reliable, 54 year old Oxford male, like the New Forest, scenic coastal walks, golf, history, churches, cooking and more. Would like to meet a female for a relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 187748 or send a text to 80360**

ALL TO LOVE Kind and caring Oxfordshire male, 54, brown hair, green eyes, GS0H, searching for a nice, genuine girl, for friendship first, then maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 461278**

FUN, FRIENDSHIP AND ROMANCE Caring Wantage male, 54, brown hair, slim-medium build, semi-retired, like music, travel, days out and winning and dining. Seeks a lady for friendship initially, hopefully leading to a relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 187581 or send a text to 80360**

LOOKING FOR THE ANSWER Caring, honest, 54 year old Oxford male, good sense of humour, enjoys pubs, eating out and cinema. Seeks a like-minded lady for a long-term relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 178397**

LET'S SHARE LIFE Independent Aylesbury male, 56, 5'10", grey hair, would like to meet caring, honest lady, with a good sense of humour, for sharing days, evenings out and maybe a little romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170308**

TAKE CHARGE Bright, humorous and optimistic Banbury man, 57, would like a date with a chatty, active woman, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132836**

JUST WANT TO BE HAPPY Loyal, supportive, reliable, trustworthy 58 year old Evesham male, semi-retired, intelligent, interesting, like sport, theatre, music, walking, gardening and historical places. Seeking a female. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 185048**

COME ALIVE Ambitious, unconventional and focused Bampton / Burford / Carterton man, 60, would like to find a protective, committed female, for friendship and romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 160696 or send a text to 80360**

BY MOONLIGHT Upbeat and faithful Burford chap, 60, widowed, own home and car, hard-working, loves days out, drives, walks, the countryside and more, now looking for a similar woman, for true company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 177916 or send a text to 80360**

PASSION FLOWER Creative, instinctive and sympathetic Wallingford man, 61, looking for an approachable, helpful female, to share the future with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122 or send a text to 80360**

STARTING OFF RIGHT Slim, happy, blue-eyed Banbury man, 61, 5'6", likes gardening, cinema, meals out, walks in the country and 60's music. Seeking a genuine, loving lady, for friendship and romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 150014 or send a text to 80360**

STARTING TOGETHER Fit, active Oxford-based Latin male, 63, loves exploring new places and the fun things in life, looking for a special and honest woman, to share happy times, fun and whatever life offers. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 460522**

SOUND LIKE YOUR TYPE? Tall, handsome, fit Abingdon male, 64, slim, enjoys DIY, gardening, travel and walks, now seeking a slim, petite, adventurous female, for good company and to enjoy a happy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159314**

SEEKING INSPIRATION Warm-hearted, active, gentle and outgoing Luton man, 65, with many interests in life, now looking for a shy, considerate female, who seeks a friendship and plenty of happy times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 151562 or send a text to 80360**

TO THE FUTURE Loyal, honest and sensible North Oxfordshire male, 66, 5'9", solvent, enjoys soul music, motorsport, classic cars and more, searching for a charming, lovely, caring and dog wailing. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 180701**

MISSING SOMEONE SPECIAL Kind-hearted, 66 year old Woodstock male, like field sports, gardening, walking, cooking and dog walks. Would like to meet a like-minded lady, for meals out and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 185807 or send a text to 80360**

THAT MAGIC MOMENT Loyal, genuine, solvent Oxfordshire male, 68, solvent and happy, with a love of travel, cinema and music, searching for a nice, loyal and feminine lady, to share life's adventures with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132140**

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD Tender, fit and romantic Oxford man, 68, interested in the arts, long walks, music, drama and theatre, would like to meet an active and loving woman, to share life's memories with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 150131**

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY Loyal, genuine, solvent Oxfordshire male, 68, 5'9", 11st, own home and car, retired professional, loves music, theatre and exploring new ideas, seeks an attractive, feminine lady, to share life. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104998**

JUST AN ORDINARY GUY Kind-hearted, considerate and loving Didcot man, 69, would like a date with an old-fashioned, intuitive lady, for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 456285**

START OF A NEW JOURNEY Cheerful, slim, fit Banbury male, 71, ex forces, GS0H, likes sport, walks, animals and cosy evenings in, searching for a decent, positive lady, to settle down with and share a happy future. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104091**

SECURE THE FUTURE Youthful, faithful, liberal Oxford-based Teesside gent, 74, enjoys day trips and more, now looking for a sweet, sensitive and warm-hearted woman, to share good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141502**

DANCE INTO TOMORROW Fun, talkative and friendly Oxford guy, 80, non smoker, likes social drinks from time to time, just hoping to meet a bubbly, confident lady, to build a loving and lasting relationship with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937**

Women seeking women

JUST FRIENDS Sincere, 38 year old Oxford female, like karaoke, music, horror films, comedy, cooking, swimming and spa days. Would like to meet females, 30-50, for friendship, days out, pubs, clubs and shopping. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 185889 or send a text to 80360**

HOPE THIS WORKS Cuddly Swindon lady, 49, easygoing and fun to be with, looking for friendship leading to more with a nice, friendly, bubbly woman. Where are you? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851817**

Men seeking men

FUTURE LIFE Down-to-earth, 40 year old Wallingford man, full-time, own home, would like to meet a fun-loving guy for good times, friendship and maybe more in the future. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 187802 or send a text to 80360**

LOADS OF LOVE TO GIVE Honest, 50 year old Didcot male, TV, Blond, tall, would love to meet a male, active man for love and romance, red wine and cosy nights in. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 181165 or send a text to 80360**

ENJOY LIFE'S JOURNEY Caring, kind-hearted and sociable Abingdon male, 68, semi-retired, presentable and cheerful, looking for a similar male, to share good times, friendship and the fun things in life. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161819 or send a text to 80360**

THAT'S THE TICKET Easygoing and friendly Didcot male, 68, enjoys walks, theatre, cosy times and socialising, searching for a friendly, active chap, for company, nights out, conversation and lots more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 131800**

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Emotional tale of a woman suffering from Alzheimer's

Still Alice
(12A, 101 mins)

MEMORIES are twinkling stars in a celestial map linking our past, present and future.

Some of these glittering orbs dim naturally over time, such as first experiences from childhood, while others are temporarily obscured by the fog of modern life, like when we forget a friend's birthday, what we dreamt last night, to water the plants or the last place we saw a set of keys.

Alzheimer's is an incurable neurodegenerative disease that slowly robs a patient of the ability to see these stars and chart a safe passage back to the people they love.

Names and faces of friends and family fade to black.

For those left behind, staring into the unblinking eyes of a close relative who no longer recognises you is an anguish that defies words.

Julianne Moore delivers an Oscar-winning performance as a forty-something mother faced with an early diagnosis of this cruel disease in Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland's heartfelt drama.

Based on the novel by Lisa Genova, *Still Alice* simply, yet powerfully, conveys the emotional devastation for the central character and the effect for her family.

Celebrated linguistics professor Alice Howland (Moore) leads a charmed life.

She has a husband John (Alex Baldwin) and three grown-up children, Anna (Kate Bosworth), Tom (Hunter Parrish) and Lydia (Kristen Stewart), who are forging divergent paths through life.

During a lecture that she has rigorously prepared, Alice inexplicably loses her train of thought.

"I knew I shouldn't have had that champagne," she jokes to appreciative giggles from her audience.

Alice begins to forget simple vocabulary and seeks guidance from family medic, Dr Benjamin (Stephen Kunken).



Julianne Moore, as Alice Howland, in the film *Still Alice*



A scene from *Still Alice* with Julianne Moore playing the character Alice Howland.

Picture: PA Photo/Sony/Jojo Whilden

He suspects that Alice is exhibiting the early symptoms of Alzheimer's.

"It would be rare for someone as young as yourself, but you do fit the criteria," he tells her soberly.

Tests confirm the doctor's fears and since the condition can be passed down, Alice calls together her brood.

She advises her children to be tested, which poses a dilemma for Anna and her husband Charlie (Shane McRae), who are expecting twins.

Still Alice is a modern family portrait that will strike an unsettling chord.

Baldwin tugs our heartstrings and Stewart offers strident support as the youngest member of the clan, who moves back home to reconnect with her mother while there is still time.

"I wish I had cancer," Alice tells John. "I wouldn't feel so ashamed. When people have cancer they wear pink ribbons for you and go on long walks and raise money."

Still Alice feels no shame or cloying self-pity.

Writer-directors Glatzer and Westmoreland treat characters with sensitivity, touching lightly on the frustrations and blind terror that will become more frequent as the disease progresses.

CakeWhat's on

Theatre

THURSDAY

Aladdin – A Musical Pantomime:

St John's RC School, Avocet Way, Banbury. A musical extravaganza as we follow Aladdin in his pursuit for true love with Princess Jasmine – but the evil Abanazer has other ideas. Will Aladdin overcome evil? Includes musical numbers from shows such as *Matilda*, *We Will Rock You*, *Spamalot* and *Shrek, the Musical*. 7.30pm. £6 adults/£4 concessions. 07467142807.

Oxford Town Hall, St. Aldate's, Oxford:

While They're Away. 7.30pm. A compelling new play drawn from authentic accounts of life at the home front in First World War Oxford. Playwright Jeremy Allen has worked with members of the local community and delved into local archives to uncover experiences of a varied cast of characters from Oxford's past including Siegfried Sassoon and Lady Ottoline Morrell.

There will also be a Saturday matinee performance at 2.30pm. Proceeds from the sale of tickets will help to sustain and develop the Museum of Oxford and its services. £5/£4 concession. 01865 305305.

The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford:

The Autumn of Han. Today and tomorrow. 7.30pm. A new adaptation of a Chinese classic for the European stage, a story of corruption, revenge and tragic love. See oldfirestation.org.uk/event/the-autumn-of-han/. £12.50, concessions £10.50. 01865 305305.

SATURDAY

New Theatre Oxford, George Street, Oxford:

Paul Carrack. 7.30pm. The voice behind a songbook of household hits, Paul Carrack's new album *Rain Or Shine* comes right after an epic ten-month run of shows that included a massive two-leg UK tour, international dates and a run of shows in Europe and North America with Eric Clapton, who personally invited him to

join his stellar band and had him as featured vocalist. £32.40 to £43.40 (plus £2.85 transaction fee). 0844 8713020.

TUESDAY

The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford:

Theatre Scratch Night. 7.30pm. On each Scratch Night, local and regional theatre performers, comedians or dance artists will perform works in progress for audiences to watch and provide feedback. Want to perform? Email info@oldfirestation.org.uk with "theatre scratch" in the subject line. £5. 01865 305305.

Music

SATURDAY

Kev Cripps is ELVIS: Lampit Arms, Tadmarton. Fun-filled tribute to king of rock and roll. Free entry. 9pm. 01295 780070.

Kev G: Littlebury Hotel, Kings End, Bicester. Back by popular demand with covers from past 60 years. Free entry. 9pm. 07941 416722.

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In brief

AN ALL-NEW diesel engine will let the Range Rover Evoque hit 68mpg, its makers claim. Land Rover is aiming to add frugality to the Evoque's stylish portfolio of trim grades, materials options and paint colours. Hand-in-hand with the new, much-improved fuel economy, the Ingenium eD4 diesel has been signed off with just 109g/km of CO2 emissions for the entry-level front-wheel drive version, putting the car in the £20 per year road tax bracket.

WOULD you choose a car because it was cheerful? That's how Citroën is describing the new Berlingo MPV. The French firm cites cheerfulness as one of the Berlingo's chief attributes, thanks to the practical storage solutions, soft, comfortable ride and handy arrangement of three independent seats in the second row. In the boot there's a whopping 675 litres of space, which rises to a van-like 3,000 litres with the rear seats folded down.

Confidence and an abundant flair

Auto facts

Citroën C4 Cactus Flair Blue HDi 100
Price: £17,990
Insurance group: 18A
Fuel consumption (Combined): 83.1mpg
Top speed: 114mph
Length: 415.7cm/163.7in
Width: 172.9cm/68.1in
Luggage capacity: 12.6 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 9.9 gallons/45 litres
CO2 emissions: 89g/km
Warranty: Three years/60,000 miles

By David Duffy
david.duffy@nqo.com

NOTHING puts a smile on your face more than a car-maker having the confidence to take a risk.

And Citroën, with its history of cutting-edge cars from the Traction Avant and DS to the 2CV, has never been afraid of making quirky, successful cars.

So it is little surprise the C4 Cactus, the French carmaker's imaginative alternative to the traditional compact hatchback, was instantly voted BBC *TopGear Magazine's* favourite hatchback of 2014.

Visually striking, the five-seater, four-door hatch has a lightweight and simplified design – from the aluminium bonnet to a minimalist interior, and 'Air-bump' technology for bumpers and doors that protects from supermarket dents.

Inside the impression is one of simplicity and minimalism. Behind the steering wheel the usual array of instruments is replaced by a simple digital display with a large speed read-out, fuel level and mileometer. Warning lights come on when needed.

The dashboard is dominated by a seven-inch touchscreen, replacing conventional control



The Citroën C4 Cactus Flair Blue HDi 100

buttons, grouping together all the main functions including air conditioning, navigation, vehicle settings, telephone, media, connectivity and driving aids like parking sensors and rear-view camera.

The system also allows connection to a series of applications that include a 'fuel' app, allowing you to find the nearest and/or cheapest service station, hotels and restaurants and live traffic information.

It also comes with a range of electronic aids to make driving easier, from park assist, that carries out parking manoeuvres

automatically, to hill-start assist, cornering lights and an emergency call and assistance system that ensures the emergency services can locate the vehicle.

The Cactus, 200kg lighter than the C4, is light yet quiet, positive and settled at speed.

The wide front seats of the C4 Cactus are designed in the style of a sofa, with a panoramic sunroof making the interior light and airy. In the rear, passenger legroom is similar to that of the Citroën C4. With an equivalent wheelbase the C4 Cactus has the same amount of space, but more compact exterior dimensions.

Drivers get a drug law alert

Carry proof medicine is prescribed

MOTORISTS who regularly take medication are being advised to carry prescriptions with them in case they are stopped under new "drug-driving" regulations.

The new offence of drug-driving came into force on March 2, when police were given power to perform saliva tests at the side of the road for the presence of certain prescription drugs and illegal substances that can affect driving performance.

Drivers who fail can be taken to a police station to provide a blood test for analysis.

Tim Williamson, a motoring law expert at the law firm Blake Morgan, said drivers who take

medication covered by the new rules should consider carrying proof that they have been prescribed the drugs by a doctor or healthcare professional.

"Motorists will no doubt be concerned at the prospect of driving when they have taken prescribed medication," he said.

"There will, however, be a medical defence if the motorist is taking medication in accordance with instructions from a healthcare professional, as long as the motorist is not also impaired.

"I would advise drivers to ensure that they keep evidence of any prescription with them at all times while driving."

The new drug-driving regulations, which sit alongside the existing offence of driving a vehicle while impaired through drugs, set recommended limits for 16 drugs – a list made up of eight prescription medications and eight illegal substances.

Medicines named are Amphetamine, Clonazepam, Diazepam, Flunitrazepam, Lorazepam, Methadone, Morphine, Oxazepam and Temazepam.

It is thought the sentence for the new offence will mirror those for drink-driving – a ban of at least 12 months, with a maximum £5,000 fine and/or six months' jail.

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CAPITAL CITY, CARDIFF & GLOUCESTER QUAYS

A luxury weekend break to remember with attractions galore - Cardiff Castle & Cardiff Bay to name a few. Including a visit to historic Gloucester Quays (Sunday).

Hotel: 4 ★ Angel Hotel, Cardiff
One Night Half Board
SATURDAY 23rd MAY 2015

£99.00

ST IVES - THE CREAM OF CORNWALL

The hotel which overlooks Carbis Bay, 300 yards from the beach boasts a large ballroom, 2 bars, restaurant and sun lounge. St. Ives, the most famous of Cornish holiday towns, a jewel situated at the south western tip of Cornwall.

Hotel: Cottage Hotel, St Ives
Excursions: Lands End - Truro - Falmouth
6 Nights Half Board
SUNDAY 10th MAY 2015

£369.00

THE MYSTERY WEEKEND SPECIAL

Weekend break with a difference - try this mystery tour where your final destination will be kept a secret - where will it be? You will receive a cryptic clue sheet for budding Sherlock Holmes'!

1 Night Half Board
SATURDAY 16th MAY 2015

£99.00

4* LUXURY - LIVERPOOL JEWEL OF THE MERSEY

Liverpool is a city steeped in history and rich in culture. Explore Albert Dock, the footsteps of The Beatles or take a cruise on the famous Mersey Ferry! 4 star luxury on this wonderful city break!

Hotel: Radisson Blu Hotel, Liverpool Centre
2 Nights Half Board
FRIDAY 29th MAY 2015

£169.00

WESTON-SUPER-MARE £299.00
Somerset's Premier Location
The hotel is splendidly situated between Weston's two piers with magnificent views of the bay from the restaurant - the promenade walk starts right next to the hotel! Weston-Super-Mare is situated in a sheltered bay at the foot of the Mendip Hills with views across the Bristol Channel to South Wales.
SATURDAY 13th JUNE 2015 - 4 Nights HB

WEYMOUTH & DORSET COAST £299.00
ADULTS ONLY - Situated on the glorious seafloor on Weymouth's famous Georgian esplanade with commanding views of Weymouth Bay. Entertainment each evening & guests can enjoy the facilities in the Prince Regent Hotel next door.
MONDAY 15th JUNE 2015 - 4 Nights HB

SCARBOROUGH & NORTH YORKSHIRE COAST £399.00
Scarborough, Britain's first seaside resort! The hotel is well situated on the South Cliff, a few minutes walk from the beach and town centre. Bar/Lounge, Dance Floor, Restaurant, lift serves all floors.
SUNDAY 21st JUNE 2015
6 Nights HB

LET IT BE (OVER 40 BEATLES HITS)

Relive The Beatles' meteoric rise from their humble beginnings in Liverpool's Cavern Club, through the heights of Beatlemania, to their later studio masterpieces, with live performances of early tracks including Twist and Shout, She Loves You and Drive My Car, as well as global mega-hits Yesterday, Hey Jude, Come Together and, of course, Let It Be. Travel back to the magical Sixties when all you needed was love, and a little help from your friends!

Thursday 14th May 2015 Garrick Theatre **£59.50**

SUNNY AFTERNOON (Based on the Music of The Kinks)

This 'exhilarating, hugely enjoyable new musical' (Financial Times) features many of the bands hits, including: YOU REALLY GOT ME, WATERLOO SUNSET, DEDICATED FOLLOWER OF FASHION, ALL DAY AND ALL OF THE NIGHT, LOLA, SUNNY AFTERNOON and many more.

Thursday 14th May 2015
Harold Pinter Theatre **£64.50**

Fantastic Shows at The New Theatre, Oxford!

THE BODYGUARD
Former Secret Service agent turned bodyguard, Frank Farmer, is hired to protect superstar Rachel Marron from an unknown stalker. Each expects to be in charge - what they don't expect is to fall in love.
Tuesday 10th November 2015
£57.50

JERSEY BOYS
Jersey Boys tells the true life story of four boys from the wrong side of the tracks who wrote their own songs, invented their own unique sound, and sold 175 million records worldwide.
Tuesday 12th May 2015
£54.50

CALAMITY JANE
A classical musical starring Jody Prenger (Oliver!) alongside Tom Lister (Emmerdale!)
Tuesday 9th June 2015
Only £49.50

GARETH MALONE & HIS CHOIR VOICES '15
Join the nation's favourite choirmaster and his choir voices for a memorable evening!!
New Theatre, Oxford
Friday 27th November 2015
Only £59.50

THE JUDY GARLAND STORY
The Life & Music of a Legend
We experience Judy's timeless classic songs performed by award winning singers and dancers!! Special guest Lorna Loft Judy Garland's Daughter!!!
Thursday 23rd July 2015 **£46.50**

DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS
Tuesday 4th August 2014
New Theatre Oxford
Only £49.50

LADIES DAY ROYAL ASCOT

Although the whole week at Royal Ascot is a fashion show like no other, it is Thursday when the designer creations and millinery masterpieces reach the greatest heights
Thursday's highlight and feature race is the Group 1 Gold Cup, a battle of stamina and determination over two miles and four furlongs.
Don't forget your HAT!
Thursday 18th June 2015
Silver Ring £59.50 Grandstand £97.50
Early Bird Special £10 Deposit per person Secures Place!

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Star UK Travel - Opening Times
Monday - Thursday 9am - 5pm Friday 9am - 1pm.



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